

Several decades ago, the town of Belleview, Florida was stunned to discover that a municipal drinking water well field was polluted with gasoline. As media outlets began to cover the story, concern about contaminated drinking water became a huge issue, particularly in Florida where over 90% of the drinking water comes from groundwater. As a result of the public outcry over Belleview's water, the Florida Legislature created the Inland Protection Trust Fund in 1986. The Inland Protection Trust Fund, or IPTF as it is known, was given a dedicated funding source by placing a 3-tiered tax on every barrel of oil imported into the state. In 2009, it was estimated that the tax would generate approximately \$178 million in revenue, with \$156 million going to the cleanup program.

The current FL Legislature, in order to deal with increasing budget shortfalls has turned to existing trust funds with dedicated sources of revenue such as the IPTF, as sources of badly needed revenue. In the current legislative session, the FL Legislature has moved to virtually eliminate the program, cutting their current funding to a proposed \$130 million (Senate) and \$35 million (House). The final result has been to reduce the funding to \$22 million, with \$0 for cleanup. Fortunately, \$10 million used for the compliance program, including local government contracting, was not touched.

Florida has cleaned up approximately 11,286 sites since 1987, less than half of the current backlog in 20 years. There are 6,099 sites currently in some phase of cleanup, leaving approximately 8,428 sites awaiting cleanup. Based on this trend, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) estimates that it will take 30 years to close the sites funded by the IPTF.

The 2009 FL Legislature did authorize \$90 million for the program thru bonding. The bond money was received at the end of March 2010. All \$90 million was immediately obligated. The cleanup program was able to access \$20-35 million in unobligated FY08 funding, and by canceling and/or modifying existing work orders to fund limited work through the end of the 2009 calendar year.

In 2010, the Legislature authorized \$120 million for the cleanup program. Unfortunately, the Legislature mandated the return of \$9.3 million in LUST ARRA funds that had not been expended. During the period from July 2009 until June 10, 2010 (closure of the cooperative agreement), Florida had initiated 17 direct site assessments, completed 15 direct site assessments, and initiated 14 direct site cleanups.

Modifications to the Florida Petroleum Cleanup Program

- FL Legislature appropriated \$137.6 million from the IPTF
- 3500 active remediation sites with 1800 affected by this action
- Risk (active remediation) threshold raised from 45 to 60
- 33 – 50% of County Cleanup contract personnel to lose positions
- \$90 million is bond money to be used for the FY09 – 10 budget year
- Bond money may not be available until 1/1/2010
- DEP hopes to raise \$20-35 million in unobligated FY08 money and by canceling and/or revising existing work orders
- All sites ranked 60 or above and all imminent threat sites will continue to be addressed
- Approximately 225 active remediation units on sites ranked 49 and lower will be put into a “mothball” status with maintenance operations only
- Remediation units on sites ranked 50 and above with at least 3 quarters of operations remaining will be approved to continue for a maximum of 2 additional quarters
- \$90 million in bond money received March 2010.
- 2010 Legislature budgets \$120 million for the IPTF and state cleanup program.
- DEP projected 600 completed cleanups for the federal FY10, with 482 completed through 3rd Q.